

REMARKS

The Office Action of October 27, 2006 is noted in which the claims are variously rejected under 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph and under 35 USC 103.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions and respectfully request that this ground of rejection be removed.

This leaves the rejection of the claims as being obvious over the Bowen et al. reference in view of the McHugh monograph.

First and foremost it should be seen that the Bowen et al. reference teaches away from the claimed invention. While it is true that Bowen et al. teach a variable focal length lens 36 that assumes a shorter effective focal length (Column 4, Lines 33-34), how do Bowen et al. do it? This is resoundingly answered at Column 4, Lines 38-43, where it is said that the variable focal length lens may be a zoom lens, one or more discrete lenses selectively interposed or the lens can be electrically tunable. This means lens movement. Thus the Bowen et al. lenses are not fixed, immovable lenses.

Thus a fair reading of Bowen et al. teaches that the variable focal length lens should have non-fixed elements or movable elements.

It would therefore not be obvious to combine Bowen et al., which teach movable elements, with any teaching of McHugh.

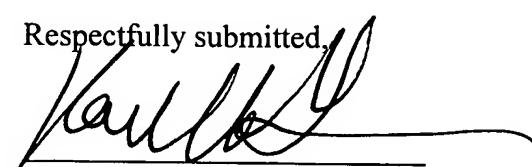
Moreover, McHugh does not teach that a fixed lens system can have different focal lengths.

From the above it can be seen that the claimed subject matter is not taught by the combination of the references; and further that even if McHugh did teach a fixed lens system

with different focal lengths, it would not be obvious to go from Bowen et al, which teaches moveable lenses, to a system that teaches fixed, immovable lenses.

Allowance of the claims and issuance of the case are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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